



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

Jan/Feb 2019

Each person must live their life as a model for others.

Four Kentwood Schools Nominated for National Ranking

Kentwood Public Schools has a reputation for building strong, positive relationships with students, staff, and parents. As a result, it is no surprise that four Kentwood Public Schools have been nominated for the prestigious "National Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools Award."

Endeavor, Discovery, and Challenger Elementaries, and Crestwood Middle, have been nominated for the Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools Award.



Capturing Kids' Hearts educates teachers and staff on how to help students build positive relationships with both peers and adults on the school campus.

Schools across the country, who partner with *Capturing Kids' Hearts*, are considered for these awards based on the following criteria:

1) nomination based on observation, 2) level of implementation of *Capturing Kids' Hearts* processes by all staff as measured by online surveys, and 3) data demonstrating that *Capturing Kids' Hearts* has made a significant improvement in attendance, discipline, climate/culture, or academics.

"This nomination is an honor for all our community and truly demonstrates how KPS is making a difference in the lives of our students!"

Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff

A team from the Flippen Group will visit each nominated campus to gather quantitative and qualitative data and to interview students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

The team will use a matrix of key measurements to gather information during the campus walk-throughs. An additional survey will also be conducted to collect feedback regarding the perceived climate and culture of the campus and its conduciveness to learning.

Following the visit, a selection team will review all accumulated data and select the campuses from around the country who will receive the prestigious *Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools* awards.

"We are proud of all of our KPS staff. They care about every student and this is shown in their daily work," said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

New Valleywood Collaboration Center Used to Host "Literary Lunch"

Valleywood Middle School is using their new Collaboration Center to host *Literary Lunch*. The event takes place once a month and is a partnership with the Kent District Library (KDL).



Employees of KDL come to the middle school and meet with students in the Collaboration Center. There they teach about books by reading excerpts and giving book summaries.

Clare O'Tsuji, an employee at KDL, also does a 10-minute read-aloud and encourages students to sign up for a library card.

Thanks to this partnership, almost all Valleywood students have a library card!

The students are encouraged to visit the Kent District Library to find books, but the KDL employees also bring a cart full of books to the school giving students the opportunity to check them out during lunch.



Literary Lunch introduces students to books they might not usually read.

This program has been in place for two-years now, but has recently begun to meet in the Collaboration Center.

"We are grateful for this partnership as it helps students find books they'll enjoy as well as creating better readers," said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

Phone: 616 455-4400 Fax: 616 455-4476

Elementary Events

Explorer Celebrates Character Traits

Every week at Explorer, time is taken to celebrate the amazing students who show their Explorer P.O.W.E.R. by displaying the character trait of focus for the month. In December, the focus was GRATITUDE.



Student's names were pulled from the P.O.W.E.R. bin. Then they were able to select cool prizes as their reward.

A school-wide assembly is held to review the trait and award more students for their P.O.W.E.R. behavior and to introduce the new trait for the following month.



Brookwood Students follow a Code of Chivalry

In December, Brookwood students were declared "official Knights of the Realm" for their respectfulness, responsibility, kindness, and other traits that follow the Code of Chivalry, a moral system from the Middle Ages. The declaration—for more than 50 lords and ladies in fifth grade, 15 students in fourth grade, and 15 students in third grade—was made during a surprise visit from a queen, a knight, and a lord from Medieval Times, a Schaumburg, Illinois based dinner theater company.

STEAM Event at Challenger

Families enjoyed a light dinner while watching a presentation about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Kentwood's implementation of the Mystery Science Curriculum. Families chose two STEAM breakout sessions to attend in the classrooms. Some of the sessions included engineering tasks involving the construction of frozen fortresses, snowball slingers, bridges, and penguin rafts and shelters. Students experimented with sink/float concepts and created chromatography butterflies. It was great to watch the students and their families think like scientists and engineers.



Kindness Projects at Discovery



Amanda Barbour's class at Discovery treated the students and staff to a random act of kindness during the holiday season. This kindness brightened everyone's day and was a great opportunity for children to practice the basis of happiness. Many hands make the gift of giving so rich.



Fifth Grade PEAKS students continue the tradition ...

To continue the Kindness Project, students and parents decorated Discovery in a candy cane theme to spread holiday cheer. For the month of December, the students focused on service learning. The hope is that students will be more conscientious of others and think outside of themselves. Students demonstrated this by brainstorming ways to help fellow students, the staff, and the community. Students will continue to share random acts of kindness to spread happiness to all.

Southwood's Food Drive

Southwood's Student Council was able to collect food and personal care items that were gifted to eleven families this holiday season. More than 250 items were donated to the food baskets and will go to help Southwood families over the two weeks away from school.



Rotary Students of the Month

Salia Georgete - Everyone has a dream. College is my first step to achieving this dream. I plan to start my college career at GRCC then transfer to GVSU for my bachelors in business administration. Then I'd like a good job with a non-profit organization. I'd like traveling to be part of the job as I want to help people outside of the United States. I'm in the Student Council and part of a club called YIA (Youth In Action). This club is focused on helping young people realize that they are the future. I volunteered at West Michigan Refugee and Education Center. I helped kids who knew very little English and little about this country. We helped them with homework and in the summer we taught the kids English.



Tina Nguyen - I plan to attend college and major in business. I did some volunteer work while in middle school, but when I entered high school I developed a trust in myself and my involvement with extracurricular activities grew. While being part of the Student Council all four years of high school, I was given challenges that I never thought I would do, but am so grateful for that

experience. I served as a class representative three out of four years and was part of the National Honor Society in my junior and senior years.

I am a good leader because I build trust with my peers and advisors. I believe a leader should be watching out for others and showing others how to succeed in their challenges.

I believe I'm a good leader because I'm trustworthy and I don't like to make my followers feel like followers. We're all equals. I'm a role model to my siblings and I encourage them to work hard as we work alongside one another to accomplish a variety of tasks and goals.

Larry Goto - For the past four years I have been a core member of the Robotics Team, Red Storm Robotics. I am currently the Marketing Team captain, which means that I am responsible for the video submissions for awards, contacting sponsors, and presenting to judges. One video I submitted won the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious award a team can earn. I often volunteer at Kids' Food Basket, and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competitions. I also mentor the middle schools robotics teams twice a week.

Juvenal Rizo - I am a person who sometimes asks himself if he is really up for the challenge, dedication, and hard work that it is going to take to achieve my goal of becoming an engineer. As a member of the East Kentwood band, I have been given the opportunity to play Christmas songs for the tree lighting celebration at the Kent District library. As a member of the marching band, I performed at home football games. I registered to become a section leader for the baritone section and was given the opportunity to be in charge of the new freshman class. My 3.8 GPA is something that has taken hard work and dedication to my studies. I am grateful for being selected for Rotary Student of the Month.

Being part of the Robotics team has put me in many leadership positions in which I have to not only encourage other team members, but teach them how to lead others. In college, I intend to major in computer science and minor in mechatronics. I try my best to make the community a better place and encourage others to do the same.

Jalena Monterusso/Crossroads - I will be graduating from Crossroads early and I'm very proud of myself because it wasn't easy. I've been in many programs that have taught me so much like ROAR. This program's goal is to help our school have a better environment and to help students interact with one another. In Leadership class, we give back to the community and we truly do make a difference. My extracurricular activities include volunteering at a community church organizing clothes and at the daycare where my mom works. I plan to attend GRCC to pursue a career in health care, working with children.

Valleywood Students Study the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Seventh grade students in Ms. Van Hof's class studied the Syrian refugee crisis by watching short documentary films and reading articles. Then, students did a mini-research project on two other countries enduring a refugee crisis. Students learned about the *U.N. Rights of A Child* and connected the "Refugee Story" from around the world to our Kentwood Community, and the Newcomer program led by Ms. Chovanec, held right here at Valleywood. Students created informational pamphlets with a "Call to Action" to help inform visitors to our building of the challenges refugees face when leaving their home countries.



Pictured are some of the beautiful pamphlets that are displayed in Valleywood's entryway.

Something Grand to Celebrate!!

Niche rating and rankings have come out and, as in the past, they have ranked EKHS #1 in diversity in the State. This year, they also ranked EK #2 for standout high schools and #16 out of 859 schools for sports.

Overall, East Kentwood High School was given an "A" rating by Niche!

"We are so proud of the folks at EK that care about all students, every day. They make excellence the goal for everything they do!!"

Evan Hordyk
Executive Director for Secondary Education

Did you know??

Santa Claus works at Kentwood when his reindeer need a break.

What an awesome district!



Coin Drive at Explorer to Benefit Toys for Tots

A coin drive was held to raise money for Toys for Tots in partnership with Joey Sutherlin of "Swim With Santa." **Students raised just over \$1,000!!** What a proud moment for the students to be able to make sure that all children had a gift during the holiday season.



Santa, Comet, and Superintendent Zoerhoff brought donuts and candy canes to celebrate the accomplishment.



High School and Elementary Students Network

The East Kentwood Student Council partnered with Kent Schools Services Network to plan a memorable afternoon for the kindergarten and first grade students at Challenger.

EK Student Council members planned several holiday activities including a special snack, art activities, songs, read-a-louds, and even joined the students for recess and lunch. Challenger students were happy to spend time with the Falcon leaders and talked about their experience all afternoon.

This partnership experience has lasting benefits for both elementary and high school students. The Challenger staff affirmed the EK Student Council members for their professional, caring, and patient attitudes with each and everyone of the elementary students.

Both staff and students consider themselves to be fortunate to be part of a district that strives to build a culture of positive and lasting relationships for all students!

Be The Dream Program: Mentors Needed

Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining our **Be The Dream** mentor group? We are asking for one hour from each mentor per week to read and provide glimpses of their college and/or career field experiences. By building positive relationships, talking about their careers, and inspiring the children of our district, we believe they can make a difference.

Program Goals:

- Build meaningful, productive relationships
- Offer guidance, a positive relationships and support
- Establish short and long term goals
- Improve self esteem in mentees
- Improve reading attitudes and interests
- Improve academic performance in reading achievement
- Explore innovation and creativity through various activities
- Engage in the learning process and collaborate to solve problems

For more information contact the Superintendent's Office at 616 455-4400.

2019 Kent County Senior Millage Services

Regina Salmi, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Are you age 60+? Do you reside in Kent County? Did you know there is help available to help you remain independent as you age? The Kent County Senior Millage funds 50+ area services to help older adults stay in their own homes as they age. Services like transportation, home-delivered meals, in-home care, medication management, home modification, lawn care/snow removal and many more are available to Kent County seniors. Without the millage, this type of support would be cost-prohibitive for many older adults.

Any Kent County adult age 60+ can qualify for services, although some cost-sharing may occur based on income. The type and level of support a person receives depends on their need. Intensive in-home services, like bathing, cleaning, shopping, and nutritional assistance will require an assessment by a Care Management team to ensure the services necessary for continued independence are provided. For an individual who needs assistance with a task like snow removal or transportation, an assessment won't be necessary.

KCSM services are provided by over 30 service partners. To become part of the KCSM network, each KCSM partner is extensively reviewed and funding is ultimately approved by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Executive Committee, Kent County Finance Committee, and the full Kent County Board of Commissioners. For 2019, the Kent County Senior Millage will fund \$11,078,000 in services and support for older adults.

A new partner joined the KCSM network for 2019. Alternatives in Motion provides gently used mobility equipment to those who do not qualify for other assistance. They offer equipment such as walkers, bath equipment, Hoyer lifts, scooters, power wheelchairs, and manual wheelchairs for the personal use of a client. Alternatives in Motion will also perform maintenance on equipment provided through them.

The Kent County Senior Millage offers residents the opportunity to remain in their homes as they age, as well as support for family caregivers. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the services available through the Kent County Senior Millage, contact Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at (616) 456-5664 or aaainfo@aaawm.org. The 2019 KCSM Service Directory is available for download on their website at www.aaawm.org/kcsm.



"Catch The Spirit" Day at Kentwood

Kentwood Schools hosted the First "Catch The Spirit" Special Olympics Day in the Field-house on December 1. It was

an amazing morning filled with smiles, super heroes, and sports. Over sixty volunteers treated the kids to basketball, wrestling, volleyball, soccer, hockey, lacrosse, the National Honor Society, and some super heroes, to make the day extra special.



Thank you to Dave Kransberger and Kathy Kransberger for spearheading this event. Also, thank you to the amazing EK coaches, students, and athletes who volunteered their time on a Saturday morning.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Thursday, March 7, 2019

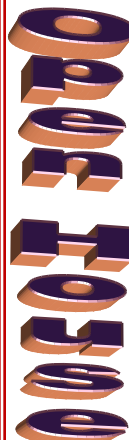
7:00 pm at your child's home school.

Experience Excellence and Equity in Education

- All Day, Every Day Kindergarten
 - All Day, Every Day Young 5s
 - Part time option for Young 5s
- Safe, secure, and nurturing classrooms
All day Mon, Wed, and Fri

Call Kentwood PS Administration office at (616) 455-4400 for more information or visit www.kentwoodps.org.

Fifth to sixth grade parent visitation on **Wednesday, March 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm** at each middle school.



Preschool News

**Thursday, February 7
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Hamilton Early Childhood Center
3303 Breton Road SE

3-year-old tuition programs
4-year-old tuition programs
4-year-old Great Start Readiness Programs
(1/2 day and full day sections)

Returning families may sign up starting Wed., Feb. 6
New families may sign up starting Thurs., Feb. 7
Children must be 3 or 4 years of age by Sept. 1, 2019
Please call 616-493-5693 with questions.

Crossroads Alternative High School Challenge Day 2018



Crossroads students and staff participated in Challenge Day. All shared in meaningful fun, fellowship, and team-bonding activities! The theme was "Be the Change," a project about service and giving back to the world. All were challenged to do one intentional random act of kindness daily (we call it an "Act of Change") that will benefit others. The movement is designed to inspire peace, create hope, and challenge everyone to find their affinity for all people. Thank you to Kentwood's Mayor Kepley for joining

Crossroads and participating in an impactful day. It was truly a great day to be a Crossroads Tiger!

2018 Thanksgiving Luncheon



On Monday, November 19, Crossroads held its 8th Annual Crossroads Thanksgiving luncheon. Staff, students, and a few Central office staff joined together to be grateful for health, education, freedom, and friendships. Mrs. Kristi Koning and Alex Bowers (Child Nutrition Staff) prepared and served a wonderful meal, while other

staff contributed to make the event a success.

MAEO STARS Fall Leadership Conference

Congratulations to the MAEO STARS (Michigan Alternative Education Organization/Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, and Self-Esteem) newly elected Student Leadership Board Representatives, Carlos García-Erazo and Ly'ric Jackson. Both students delivered speeches highlighting their positive experiences at Crossroads, participation in service projects, and desire to serve on the MAEO STARS Student Leadership Board.



Before Thanksgiving Break, Crossroads Superbuddies spent two amazing Thanksgiving feasts with their friends in the ASD Program at East Kentwood's Freshman Campus. First, Crossroads was welcomed to their classroom to share in food and fellowship. Crossroads then reciprocated by having the ASD friends come to Crossroads and join in our building-wide Thanksgiving luncheon. As always, a great time was had by all and the friendships continue to flourish.

KPS EL Parent Academy

In 2018, the Parent Academy was launched and included 10-20 parents consistently attending the sessions. Each session included English language learning, banking, citizenship classes, culture classes, study and technology skills.



This year, we are pleased to announce we have launched the first session of the 2018/19 school year and have between 30-40 parents attending regularly. It has been amazing to watch the different cultures come together to learn so they can help their students learn.

A special "thank you" to Zsanara Hoskins, Jeremy Gasper, Sarah Weir, Erin Wolohan, Katie Lett, Sanela Spreccic, and Blair Feldkamp who have been coordinating these sessions.

EK's Student Council Honored our Veterans

EK's Student Council arranged for a meet and greet for Veteran's Day to honor those who have served. As a special event, Holland Home residents who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam visited the campus and shared time with students in history classes. It was an incredible experience for the students and staff to meet these amazing gentlemen who are walking history lessons.

Thank you to each and every one of them for their service to our country.



Update on Construction Bond – Winter 2018 / Spring 2019

We hope the New Year has been off to a GREAT start for each of you and your family! The 2016 Bond construction continues as District officials and the Board of Education plan for enhanced technology, security, and facility upgrades. Construction crews continue to work hard on many upgrades throughout the District and will continue to work throughout the school year. There have been quite a few projects completed and many that have just started. We are excited to share this news with you!

Winter/Spring of 2019 Planned Projects:

Pinewood Middle School Collaboration Center
New Signage at Endeavor Elementary
EKHS Site Project renovations; Phase 1 of 3
EKHS TV Studio Renovation
EKHS (Fine Arts Center) Wireless Microphone Addition
Eight additional classrooms at Explorer Elementary
Completion of the Administration Office Community Collaboration Center
Aquatics Center LED Lighting Upgrade

The **Administration Building** has completed its first phase of construction on the new, state-of-the-art Community Collaboration Center. Crews will continue to work over the next few weeks. The new center will serve as a hub for the District. This technology-based, teacher (and community) focused training center will foster creative collaboration throughout. Anticipated completion of this project is mid-April.



Endeavor Elementary
has new, updated carpet!

Phase One of the EKHS Site project has begun.



Thank you to the Kentwood Community for your continued support!!

Throughout the course of the year, District officials will continue to communicate progress of the construction projects across the District that are possible due to the passage of the Bond Issue in 2016. We encourage you to visit our website (www.kentwoodps.org) for updates, including pictures and a link to the construction vlog (video log), for all of the projects. Detailed information is also available by contacting Todd Bell, Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations at 616.455.4400 ext. 79918.